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Thursday, June 8, 2017 metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly

MAX MINGHELLA WILL MAKE YOU SWOON

Nick from 'The Handmaid's Tale' talks forbidden love in Gilead. 12-13

The Art Museum Area is great for food, too. 14

Phils' Herrera says he forgives Schmidt. 21

COMEY DON'T PLAY THAT

What to watch for when the former FBI director testifies that Trump pressured him to 'let go' of an investigation. 4-5

GETTY IMAGES

DOJ OFFICIAL WRAY TO REPLACE COMEY

1 President Donald Trump selected former U.S. Justice Department official Christopher Wray as FBI director to replace the fired James Comey. Wray, who represented New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie in the so-called Bridgegate scandal and was assistant attorney general in the Justice Department dealing with corporate fraud and financial markets cases, will need Senate confirmation to take the top job

at the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Wray served from 2003 to 2005 at the Justice Department under former President George W. Bush as an assistant attorney general in charge of its criminal division. Wray had an initial interview with the Justice Department on May 24 and met with Trump on May 30. REUTERS

LA SUED FOR INADEQUATE HOUSING FOR DISABLED

2 The United States has joined a lawsuit accusing Los Angeles of failing to develop affordable housing for disabled people, despite accepting millions of dollars of federal funds for that purpose, the Department of Justice said on Wednesday. The decision to intervene adds legal firepower to a whistleblower case brought by Los Angeles wheelchair user Mei Ling, and signals the government's belief it has a greater chance of success than typical of False Claims Act lawsuits. It also follows Los Angeles' agreement last August to settle litigation by several advocacy groups by spending at least $200 million over a decade to provide 4,000 affordable apartments for people with disabilities. The lawsuit accused Los Angeles of falsely certifying its compliance with the Fair Housing Act. REUTERS

TRAIN STABBINGS SUSPECT CLAIMS SELF-DEFENSE

3 The man accused of murdering two men and wounding a third on a Portland, Oregon, train was led away from a courtroom on Wednesday by sheriff's deputies as he shouted that he had acted in self defense. Jeremy Christian, 35, had stood quietly in a glass-walled holding cell in the courtroom throughout a brief appearance until its conclusion, when he blurted out that he was "not guilty of anything but

defending myself against violent aggression by Micah Fletcher," the surviving victim of the attack. Fletcher was in court for the hearing. Christian was charged with murder in the May 26 stabbing deaths of two men who intervened on a commuter train when he shouted religious slurs at two African-American women. REUTERS

5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

COSBY TRIAL

4 Bill Cosby arrives at the Montgomery County Courthouse on the third day of his sexual assault trial on Wednesday in Norristown. A former Temple University employee alleges that the entertainer drugged and molested her in 2004 at his home in suburban Philadelphia. More than 40 women have accused the 79-year-old entertainer of sexual assault. GETTY IMAGES

FACEBOOK FEATURES TO BOOST CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

5 Facebook announced three new features intended to boost civic engagement among users in the United States on its platform by connecting them more easily with their elected representatives. The new offerings come as Facebook has sought to rehabilitate its image as a credible source of information following a wave of criticism after the company did too little to combat misleading or wholly fabricated political news stories during the presidential election campaign. Among the features, Facebook will now allow users to turn on "Constituent Badges" to identify them as living in their elected officials' district. The opt-in badge will be visible when a user comments on content shared by their federal, state and local representatives. Facebook also announced "Constituent Insights," which allows elected officials and other users to find local news stories that are popular in their district. REUTERS

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ERIN TIERNAN, WEB REPORTER

Could language be behind escalating police violence against black men? A new study of 183 hours of body camera footage finds police consistently speak less respectfully to black community members. Find out how that's changing at **metro.us/news.**

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Every Monday, we pick a random winner from the participants who answered correctly one of the quizzes from the previous week. This week's winner is Amanda Tiradentes.

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Ex-FBI chief James Comey tells senators

Democrats jumped on the testimony, expressing concern that Trump had inappropriately meddled with the investigation.

Former FBI Director James Comey said on Wednesday that U.S. President Donald Trump asked him to drop an investigation of former national security adviser Michael Flynn as part of a probe into Russia's alleged meddling in the 2016 presidential election.

In written testimony released the day before he appears before the Senate Intelligence Committee, Comey said Trump told him at a meeting in the White House in February: "I hope you can see your way clear to letting this go, to letting Flynn go."

The testimony puts more pressure on Trump, a Republican, whose presidency has been overshadowed by allegations that Moscow helped him win last year's election.

Some legal experts said Comey's testimony could strengthen any impeachment case built on obstruction of justice, but U.S. markets shrugged off the news from the testimony for lack of any major disclosures.

To build a criminal obstruction of justice case, federal law requires prosecutors to show that a person acted with "corrupt" intent. It does not matter whether the person succeeds in impeding an investigation.

While a sitting president is very unlikely to face criminal prosecution, obstruction of justice could form the basis for impeachment.

Comey said he had told Trump on three occasions he was not being investigated, confirming an earlier account from the president.

Trump, who spent part of Wednesday in Ohio talking about the need to fix the nation's crumbling infrastructure, ignored reporters' shouted questions about Comey. On returning to the Oval Office, Trump went into a meeting with top advisers, including chief of staff Reince Priebus.

Later, his outside counsel released a statement saying Trump felt "completely and totally vindicated" by Comey's account.

"The president is pleased that Mr. Comey has finally publicly confirmed his private re-

Former FBI Director James Comey was fired by President Trump. GETTY IMAGES

Comey's written accounts of Trump meetings depict tense encounters

Former FBI Director James Comey will say on Thursday that President Donald Trump asked him to "see your way clear to letting this go," referring to the investigation into former national security adviser Michael Flynn, according to a copy of his opening remarks posted online.

"I felt compelled to document my first conversation with the president-elect in a memo," the testimony notes stated on the Senate Intelligence Committee's website. "To ensure accuracy, I began to type it on a laptop in an FBI vehicle outside Trump Tower the moment I walked out of the meeting. Creating written records immediately after one-on-one conversations with Mr. Trump was my practice from that point forward. This had not been my practice in the past. I spoke alone with President Obama twice in person [and never on the phone] – once in 2015 to discuss law enforcement policy issues and a second time, briefly, for him to say goodbye in late 2016. In neither of those circumstances did I memorialize the discus-

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Trump pressured him on Russia probe

ports that the president was not under investigation in any Russian probe," Marc Kasowitz, Trump's attorney, said in a statement.

Several congressional committees, as well as the FBI and a special counsel, are investigating whether Russia tried to tilt last November's election in Trump's favor, using means such as hacking into the emails of senior Democrats. Trump and the Kremlin have separately denied any collusion.

Trump abruptly fired Comey, who was leading the Federal Bureau of Investigation's probe, on May 9.

Comey painted a vivid picture for senators of awkward encounters with Trump in seven pages of testimony.

Comey described a private dinner in the Green Room of the White House on Jan. 26, where Trump asked him whether he wanted to stay on as FBI director, telling him: "I need loyalty, I expect loyalty."

"I didn't move, speak, or change my facial expression in any way during the awkward silence that followed. We simply looked at each other in silence," Comey said in his testimony, explaining he became concerned that Trump was trying to create "some sort of patronage relationship."

On Feb. 14, after an Oval Office briefing on counterterrorism, Trump asked Comey to stay behind, dismissing Attorney General Jeff Sessions and his son-in-law Jared Kushner, who lingered, and waving off Priebus, who peeked through the door.

"When the door by the grandfather clock closed, and we were alone, the president began by saying, 'I want to talk about Mike Flynn,'" Comey said in his testimony.

Trump had fired Flynn the previous day in a controversy over contacts between the retired general and the Russian ambassador to the United States. The FBI has been investigating Flynn as it looks into allegations of links between Russia and the Trump campaign.

Some legal experts said Comey's written statement could be used to show that Trump engaged in obstruction of justice.

But Republican Senator Richard Burr, who heads the Senate intelligence panel, said he did not take issue with Trump's request.

"I don't think it's wrong to ask for loyalty from anybody in an administration," Burr said. REUTERS

sions. I can recall nine one-on-one conversations with President Trump in four months — three in person and six on the phone."

Another part reads: "He then said, 'I hope you can see your way clear to letting this go, to letting Flynn go. He is a good guy. I hope you can let this go.' I replied only that 'he is a good guy.' [In fact, I had a positive experience dealing with Mike Flynn when he was a colleague as director of the Defense Intelligence Agency at the beginning of my term at FBI.] I did not say I would 'let this go.'"

According to reports, Comey told Attorney General Jeff Sessions that he did not want to be left alone with Trump that meeting, believing Sessions should protect the FBI from any interference by the president. Comey also told Trump that if he wanted information on investigations, that he should follow proper channels and not contact the director directly.

"On the morning of March 30, the president called me at the FBI," Comey wrote on page six of the seven-page document. "He described the Russia investigation as 'a cloud' that was impairing his ability to act on behalf of the country. He said he had nothing to do with Russia, had not been involved with hookers in Russia, and had always assumed he was being recorded when in Russia. He asked what we could do to 'lift the cloud.' I responded that we were investigating the matter as quickly as we could, and that there would be great benefit, if we didn't find anything, to our having done the work well. He agreed, but then re-emphasized the problems this was causing him." KIMBERLY M. AQUILINA

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Woman in viral video of tirade against cop: That's 'not the real me'

Former reporter at center of scandal claims she is being subjected to online harassment.

Recently fired former PHL17 on-air talent, Colleen Campbell, says the woman seen screaming at a Philadelphia police officer during a weekend tirade — video which went viral over the past few days — "is not the real me."

In a statement she shared through attorney Wayne Pollock, of Philadelphia-based Copo Strategies, Campbell said she was "ashamed and embarrassed" by her actions caught on video.

It showed the 28-year-old berating a police officer after she had allegedly been thrown out of a performance by Craig Robinson at Helium Comedy Club on Sansom Street in Center City last Sunday for talking too much.

"I am ashamed and embarrassed by my actions. They were profane, inappropriate, and offensive. They do not reflect the person I am or how I was raised. The person in that video is not the real me," she wrote in a prepared statement. "I would like to apologize to the Philadelphia police officer who bore the brunt of my outburst, the entire Philadelphia Police Department for their patience, my former employers and coworkers whom I have let down, and my fellow patrons at Helium Comedy Club whose night out I might have disrupted."

In the statement, Campbell repeats claims that she believes she "may have been unknowingly drugged at some point in the night" before she unleashed a verbal barrage of insults on a uniformed police officer, including calling the officer, who remained calm throughout, as can be seen on the video, a "c—sucker" several times and saying that police officers are "all idiots in the f—ing town."

"My recollection of my time at Helium and the incident are hazy. Based on my on-air reporting career and my bartending jobs, I know my limits when it comes to drinking and I know to stay out of the limelight," she continued in the apology statement released on Tuesday. "My actions on that video are not the result of a handful of drinks spaced out over a couple of hours. I believe I may have been unknowingly drugged at some point that night. I did not receive medical testing while in custody because, as I recall, I was advised by personnel at the police station that such testing would delay the process of my being released."

She concluded her statement saying she hopes the officer she berated would allow her to apologize in person for "how truly sorry I am for what transpired."

Also, her family released a statement as well, through the same attorney, noting that Campbell is "recovering" from her filmed verbal barrage of a police officer and subsequent arrest on charges of resisting arrest, criminal mischief and disorderly conduct in a "secure undisclosed location.

The statement claims that since the release of the video, Campbell has been the victim of online threats and lewd phone calls.

"Ms. Campbell and her family are still sorting out the events of that night. Their highest priority is the health and well-being of Ms. Campbell," read a statement released by her family.

HAYDEN MITMAN

Colleen Campbell was recently fired from PHL17. PROVIDED

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FORMER PHL 17 REPORTER IN VIRAL VIDEO NEEDS TO LEARN HUMILITY

CASSIE HEPLER

Opinion

By now, we've all watched the viral video of Colleen Campbell, 28, in an almost-parody of Tina Fey's South Philly accent, destroy her career at PHL 17 within a few agonizing drunken minutes.

Props to the police officer who kept his cool and obviously had nothing better to do (you know, like stop murders, stabbings, etc.) and the co-worker who tried to have her back. I'm sure he didn't want to go full knight in shining armor and throw his fiery lass over his shoulder, saving her from certain doom, as she is an adult after all.

But here's the thing — this chick is 28 years old. Like you never got roaring drunk and made a complete, belligerent ass out of yourself. Perhaps there were no cell phones capable of recording it back then, or you lucked out and no one saw it. She claimed to have one drink at the comedy club and that she was bartending previously and had some shots and a margarita while pregaming at another location. So that's, uhhhh, a lot of booze for a small South Philly girl.

Her female white privilege was shining through, especially when she is screaming in the cop's face (who is African-American). She obviously felt some form of superiority and protection by being in the news, as well as by her comment, "I work at a f—ing news station, motherf—er."

If that were a black newswoman and a white cop, the conversation would not be about her possibly being roofied. And if you know anyone who has been roofied or have experienced it yourself, the coherence of speech — even movement — is almost nonexistent. She seemed pretty spry and spiteful.

Friends of hers have claimed she was always a sweet, mild-mannered woman. Other friends claim this is really how she is, and the liquor intensified it. But video doesn't lie. She was getting South Philly scrappy, and it's now news for the world to see. C'mon Philly, can't we be known for better things than this and some kids punching a special needs man?!

When I first moved to Philly, I used to roll into the newspaper and talk about how much fun and debauchery I had the night before, to which my managing editor would respond, "Keep it on the down low, Cass." Everyone in news should know this. You want to be a hot mess? Just don't do it in public. There's a reason the stereotypical newsroom from back in the day was portrayed with a bottle in the desk drawer and cigarettes burning in ashtrays. But we've evolved beyond that … I think.

We're supposed to be role models, although not perfect, like any other human being.

Respect is what it comes down to. Have some for yourself, your fans, your colleagues and fellow comedy show attendees. I just hope this woman has the cojones to woman up and apologize publicly to everyone involved face-to-face. Then maybe she will stop getting dragged through the mud.

Humility goes a long way. But her career, I fear, will not be Philly-based anymore.

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COMEY'S BIG MOMENT

TOM FOREMAN
Opinion
CNN's Tom Foreman is the author of the book "My Year of Running Dangerously."

GETTY IMAGES

You have your popcorn. You've loaded up on Sour Patch Kids. Maybe you even have a frosty soda ready so you won't have to step away from your big-screen plasma and miss a moment of James Comey's testimony before the Senate Intel Committee. After all, the fired FBI Director is going to be hotter than "Hamilton" for at least a few hours. But it occurs to you: "Wait!
I don't know what to look for!"

Fear not. Here are the three key questions of the day.

1) Did President Trump pressure Comey to drop the Russia investigation? The White House says of course not. But according to Comey's prepared opening statement at one meeting, President Trump spoke about the part of the investigation aimed at now-dismissed National Security Adviser Michael Flynn. "I hope you can see your way clear to letting this go, to letting Flynn go," the president allegedly said while talking about his need for "loyalty." Democrats will want a lot of details about this and subsequent events so they can ask whether Comey felt it was obstruction of justice. Because if he says yes, that's a paving stone toward their distant dreams of impeachment.

2) But if it was obstruction, why didn't Comey speak up? This is likely the Republican line of attack. Watch for them to flag the fact that even though Comey took notes, he did not call out the president's actions at the time. Rather, most of this emerged after Comey was fired and the president had accused him of doing a poor job. For some GOPers, the goal is clear: pin a name tag on Comey that says "untrustworthy, disgruntled former employee."

3) All of that aside, was anyone making borscht with the Russians? Remember,this whole mess started with the idea the Russians were meddling with the election. Comey is generally cagey with info about investigations (Hillary's emails aside) but keep your ears open. If he hints at collusion between anyone on Team Trump and the Kremlin, it will send a shock wave down Pennsylvania Avenue hard enough to rattle the White House china.

POLITICS

US spy agencies probe another flank in Russian hacking

Russian hacking of the 2016 U.S. election included sophisticated targeting of state officials responsible for voter rolls and voting procedures, according to a top secret U.S. intelligence document that was leaked and published this week, revealing another potential method of attempted interference in the vote.

The month-old National Security Agency document outlined activities including impersonating an election software vendor to send trick emails to more than 100 state election officials. Analysts at the NSA believed the hackers were working for the Russian military's General Staff Main Intelligence Directorate, or GRU, according to the document.

The document's publication on Monday by The Intercept, a news outlet that focuses on security issues, received particular attention because an intelligence contractor, Reality Leigh Winner, was charged the same day with leaking it.

U.S. intelligence agencies have previously said the Kremlin tried to influence the election outcome in favor of Republican candidate Donald Trump through leaks during the campaign of hacked emails from Democratic Party officials, aimed at discrediting Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton.

The new revelations suggest that U.S. investigators are also still probing a more direct attempt to attack the election itself, and a federal official confirmed that is the case. However, there is no evidence that hackers were able to manipulate votes, or the vote tally.

The document says at least one employee of the software vendor had an account compromised but does not cover whether any of the elections officials were also successfully compromised. If they did compromise the officials, hackers could have planted malicious software, then captured proof of the infection to suggest that there had been fraud on Clinton's behalf, had she won the Nov. 8 election, experts said.

"If your goal is to disrupt an election, you don't need to pick the winner or actually tamper with tally result," said Matt Blaze, a University of Pennsylvania computer science professor who has written on the security of voting machines. Simply casting doubt on the legitimacy of the results could achieve the goals of a government-sponsored hacking campaign, he said. REUTERS

Harold Slutsky, DMD ORTHODONTIST

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Dispensary creates marijuana-infused pizza

The most ubiquitous marijuana edible is, of course, the brownie, but for patients visiting a nonprofit dispensary in Quincy, there's a more savory option: pot pizza.

Ermont Inc. in Quincy unveiled this week the new edition to its edible menu. The 6-inch cheese pizza comes frozen and infused with 125 milligrams of the dispensary's own THC distillate.

"We are pleased to offer a new, more appetizing way for our patients to alleviate pain and discomfort," said Jack Hudson, CEO and founder of Ermont, in a statement. "The combination of a food as popular as pizza with the medicinal benefits of marijuana represents an important milestone in the evolution of our high-quality marijuana-infused products menu."

Ermont's edibles team, composed of operations manager Seth Yaffe, cannabinoid-infusion consultant Adam Gendreau and chef Keith Brooks, developed the pie. It's not the first unexpected edible Ermont has created, either.

Ermont dispensary in Quincy created this marijuana-infused frozen pizza.
PROVIDED BY ERMONT

The dispensary opened in October 2016, and along with fruit chews, muffins and lozenges, it offers hot fudge, peanut butter and pub cheese all laced with THC. Around the Super Bowl, the menu featured marijuana mac and cheese, queso dip and even hot sauce.

"We wanted [our edibles] to be something that, first, took our patients' minds off of medicine. We have patients taking tremendous amounts of pills," he said.

The idea of providing savory edible options helps marijuana-as-medicine be "better able to fit a normal day-to-day experience," he added. Most edibles are sweet, but some patients don't want to be eating candy or brownies all day long to get their doses.

There are a few medicinal benefits to eating a pot pizza rather than smoking a joint, as well. Yaffe said that edibles provide a longer-lasting effect of the THC, to alleviate pain and discomfort for a longer period of time.

The personal pizza is also one of the first edibles designed as a full meal rather than a small snack or lozenge.

KRISTIN TOUSSAINT

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Is Alex Rodriguez sexting someone who isn't J.Lo?

His alleged mistress claims he's a serial cheater.

Alex Rodriguez's supposed mistress is calling him out, and oh, dear, it's a doozy.

Lauren Hunter — a 34-year-old who Rodriguez met at an Equinox in 2011 — is spilling big time about her alleged relationship with the former baseball star. The big story? That he's cheating on Jennifer Lopez.

Hunter, who is clearly very high on a cocktail of unquenchable thirst and inflated self-worth, says Rodriguez isn't even sexually attracted to Jennifer Lopez. "In bed with J.Lo, he's probably picturing me," she told the National Enquirer.

Besides that, we've got all the standard stuff: Rodriguez is allegedly into threesomes, voyeurism, rough sex and schoolgirl outfits.

Just like everybody on every dating app! And, oh yeah, jealousy makes him damp in the pants area. "He likes to be jealous, it turns him on. He'll FaceTime in the gym and just want to watch me work out," Hunter says.

Considering this is the National Enquirer, I do believe we can take this all with a grain of salt.

Jerry Seinfeld doesn't want to hug Kesha, OK?

Hugs are weird. An embrace is really just bumping your body into someone else's body on purpose and then just holding it there for an undetermined amount of time. Jerry Seinfeld agrees with this interpretation, because he rebuffed Kesha's attempt at a hug so awkwardly that it is now hot news.

The cringe factor is sky high with these two.

At the red carpet before the National Night of Laughter and Song at the Kennedy Center, the 63-year-old served Kesha, 30, a steaming hot plate of, "Girl, bye" when she went in for a hug.

"No thanks," Seinfeld said.

"Please?" pleaded Kesha.

"No thanks," he repeated, cooly.

"A little one?" Kesha asked, approaching tentatively.

"Yeah, no thanks," Seinfeld said, backing away from her like she's the dang bubonic plague.

Afterward, Seinfeld confessed to reporter Tommy McFly that he didn't even know who that was.

So yeah, if anybody sees Kesha, feel free to don a mask fashioned in the style of ol' Jerry and give her a warm, tender embrace. She needs it!

the word

RACHAEL VAUGHAN CLEMMONS
rachael.clemmons@metro.us

Elisabeth Moss talks "The Handmaid's Tale" and hot Nick. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Welcome to the Real Housewives of Gilead

Are Elisabeth Moss' and Max Minghella's "The Handmaid's Tale" characters real? No. Do I want them to be? Kind of.

Sure, the world of Gilead is oppressive and depressing, and I know it's more important to be focused on the bummer parts — but it's just so hard when Offred (Moss) and Nick (Minghella) have such lovely chemistry. It's like I'm watching Jamie Foxx and Katie Holmes in real time — people who are important but not that important — and it's a dang delight.

In an interview with Elle, Moss hints that Nick and Offred's whole thing might get more serious in season two. "[Offred's] in this position where she might be in love with two people. Honestly I think she does love Nick." Tell me more, girl!

"She has a husband who she also loves, who she also now knows is alive. It's the most complicated 'Real Housewives' episode you've ever seen." Oh dear, she's clever too? "The 'Real Housewives of Gilead' is gonna have a great reunion episode."

Um, I would absolutely watch that.

Cher: The Musical will probably change your life

Mark your calendars because "Cher: The Musical" is confirmed for Broadway 2018! If only we could turn ahead time…

The 71-year-old singer/actress/pop-icon announced the news on Twitter, in typical Cher-bonkers-tweeting fashion:

"Just got off phone w/ Writer & Director of musical. There Will 🐝 performance in THEATRE WITH ACTORS, DANCERS, SINGERS!! IT'll 🐝 ON BROADWAY 2018,"

she wrote.

What can you expect to see on stage? According to Variety, the show, directed by Jason Moore of "Avenue Q," will set hits from Cher's musical catalog ("I Got You Babe," "If I Could Turn Back Time," "Believe," among others) to her life story. We'll see her growing up poor in L.A. with dreams of stardom, through her musical and romantic partnership with Sonny Bono in the '60s, to her postdivorce transformation into an actress. (We love us some "Moonstruck" and "Mermaids.")

According to Playbill, Cher will be depicted at three different life stages, as "Babe," "Lady" and "Star" —psychedelic names!— played by three different actresses (not yet confirmed).

The pop icon and bonkers tweeter is getting her due.

Go, Cher, go! We got you, babe. You are, forever, strong enough.

KATE MOONEY

Kate Mara must love dogs

The "House of Cards" alum made a new friend while filming "Megan Leavey."

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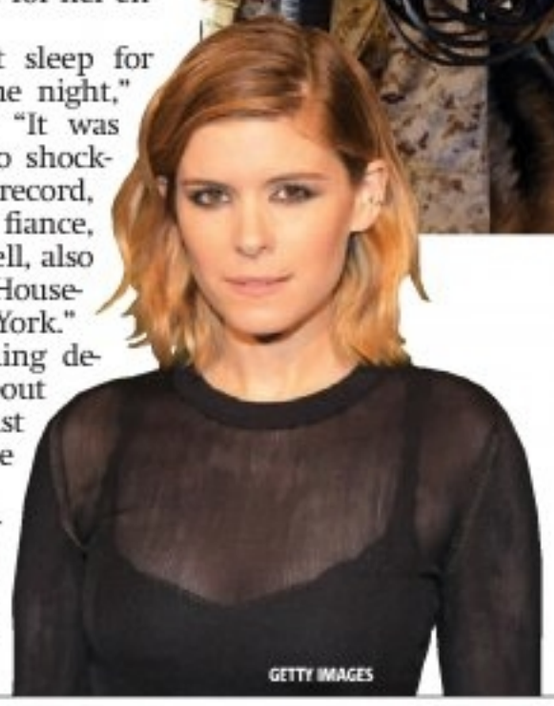
Kate Mara plays a Marine who teams up with a bomb-sniffing dog in "Megan Leavey," in theaters Friday. JACOB YAKOB, BLEECKER STREET

How does Kate Mara chill? By watching depressing documentaries. The actress, 34, enthusiastically recommends "Mommy Dead and Dearest," a recent HBO documentary about a young woman who killed her mom — but only after being held captive by her for her entire life.

"I couldn't sleep for the rest of the night," Mara recalls. "It was really dark, so shocking." (For the record, she and her fiance, actor Jamie Bell, also watch "Real Housewives of New York." "There's nothing depressing about that. It's just hilarious," she says.)



GETTY IMAGES

Another Mara-approved downer doc? "Blackfish," the 2013 film about an orca held by SeaWorld. Always stoked to join up with activist causes, the "House of Cards" alum reached out to its filmmaker, Gabriela Cowperthwaite, to talk shop and maybe work together one day.

And now they have: Mara got Cowperthwaite the job directing "Megan Leavey," a docudrama about a real-life Marine corporal who worked with a dog named Rex that sniffed out IEDs during the Iraq War. After her tour was over, Leavey learned that most combat dogs are put down, at which point she campaigned to adopt him.

"I don't know if a lot of people are aware of what happens with military dogs," Mara says. "The dogs that protect us don't choose to do so. We can always strive to do better for them. This is just one story — and there must be hundreds similar to this — about dog Marines that need an extra bit of love and care after they come back from war."

A proud dog owner — she's said her dogs will be attending her and Bell's wedding, and as we speak on the phone, she has to audibly swat a couple of them away as they jump up for food scraps — Mara inevitably bonded with Varco, the German shepherd who played Rex.

"There's this thing people say: 'Don't ever act with kids and dogs,'" Mara says, alluding to a line usually attributed to the peerlessly grouchy W.C. Fields. She doesn't feel that way. "I played a mom in a couple different movies over the past two years, and it was such a good experience. There's something similar in children and in dogs, where they really can't be anything but honest. They have to trust you; you can't fake it. And they teach you empathy and compassion."

Mara has actually not kept in touch with Varco since they wrapped. "I don't have his number. I don't know what he's up to these days," she says. "I hope he's living on a ranch and running around and just being a dog."

Keeping up with old friends

Our chat inevitably turns to "House of Cards," her old hit show, whose fifth season just landed on Netflix, though she confesses she's a bit behind.

"The only thing I haven't seen is the last season, so I have to binge-watch it," Mara explains. "But everything else after my character died I watched along with everyone else, since I love the show. It's a perk to not being on a show you love: You can watch it without being judgmental of your own performance."

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Max Minghella gets us through 'Handmaid's Tale'

Flirtin' with the lawn boy from dystopian hell.

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If you're watching "The Handmaid's Tale," you probably have a thing for Max Minghella. The 31-year-old actor has a starring role as Nick, the stone-faced, ever-brooding driver for Commander Waterford and his wife. Heading into the final episode of season one, we're still not totally sure we can trust him, but we're OK with turning our female gaze on his Eye. His clandestine affair with handmaid Offred [Elisabeth Moss] offers a temporary relief from her daily hell as a prisoner of Gilead, at least, and the steamy scenes between the two provide "a nice reprieve," as Minghella puts it, from the show's otherwise traumatic subject matter — for both the viewers and the actors.

"It could almost be in a romance novel, those scenes," Minghella says on the phone from L.A. He's driving — just like Nick! — en route to a meeting for his next project: his directorial debut,"Teen Spirit," a movie-musical from the musical producers of "La La Land" starring Elle Fanning, which is due out in 2018. "So much of what [Elisabeth Moss] has to do is so uncomfortable and disturbing. To then be able to go into a scene where she's flirting with the lawn boy, I think is nice, you know?" he says.

Max Minghella stars as Nick Blaine, a driver for Commander Waterford and handmaid Offred (Elisabeth Moss)'s clandestine love interest. HULU

The sexual tension between Nick and Offred is intense! How did you and Elisabeth Moss prepare for the scenes?
Well, that's very nice of you to say. Lizzie and I had never met before we showed up to work, so we were both relieved there was a natural chemistry, which hopefully comes across on the screen. We're both kind of connected to those sides of ourselves in our own lives. I love doing romantic things. I'm a very romantic person in my own life, so it's one of the easier things to tap into.

I read that you're not a very political person. Yet you're starring in a show with such political heft. How does that work?
I'm just not a political person. I'm not informed enough to talk about it. I always feel like I'm the wrong person to ask, because I'm so aware of my lack of education,

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which is not a good thing. When I read the script, it was in a very different political context, in terms of the world we live in. It was far ahead of this administration. The elements I responded to most and kept me engaged were much more to do with the emotional narrative, than anything else. Also, I play a character, who I always felt was slightly less intellectual than the rest of the story. In a nice way, my stuff is lighter in tone that the other stuff we're looking at.

In Episode 8, "Jezebels," we finally get some of Nick's back story, pre-Gilead. Can you talk a bit about who you think he was before?

What was useful about it was to see Nick is not the person he presents himself to be in Gilead. I think he's a much more vulnerable person. He's forced to shield and disguise so much of his emotionality in order to survive. I hope that getting a quick peek at where he came from helps the audience see the humanity.

GETTY

Watching "Jezebels," I wondered, maybe Nick is just a f—kboi? We learn that he slept with a cook at Jezebel's. When he breaks it off with Offred, under the guise of, "Oh, it's too dangerous," maybe his ego was wounded after seeing her cavorting with the commander.

[Laughs] He's not a perfect person by any stretch of the imagination. That last scene, that exchange between June [aka, Offred] and Nick in the kitchen, when he says, "My name's Nick Blaine, I'm from Michigan," and she's like..."Whatever." [Laughs] I thought that was very funny. It's a very male mistake to think that giving such a small nugget of information about yourself is somehow a gift. I thought it revealed some kind of naivete about male and female dynamics. Made me laugh, that scene, especially when I watched it back.

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This gorgeous blue crab toast is one of the app options at South for Art Museum Area Restaurant Week. PHOTO COURTESY OF SOUTH RESTAURANT

Four can't-miss meals at Art Museum Area Restaurant Week

Can you eat them all?

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The Art Museum area in Fairmount may be known for its art, but its food scene is definitely heating up. It's getting so hot that the Greater Art Museum Business Alliance and the Fairmount Community Development Corporation (FCDC) are hosting Art Museum Area Restaurant Week for the second year in a row.

"A number of new restaurants have opened in recent years, and this offers an opportunity for residents and visitors alike to try something new," says Kevin Moran, executive director at FCDC. "The Art Museum area offers a dining experience that feels like an urban retreat, just steps from some of the world's most renowned museums," he adds.

An exciting development for this year is that the restaurant week has been extended to two weeks, running from June 11-16 and from June 18-23.

So what are we excited to eat? Here are four can't-miss meals at this Art Museum Area Restaurant Week 2017.

Dim Sum & Noodle

2000 Hamilton St.
dimsumandnoodle.com
This casual and cozy dim sum spot is the perfect place to refuel after making your museum rounds. During restaurant week, you can eat a three-course meal for only $15. Choose from appetizers like steamed dumplings or dan dan noodles and entrees like sauteed beef with pumpkin, a dim sum combo and satay chicken ho fun noodle. For dessert, dig into green tea ice cream or creme brulee.

La Calaca Feliz

2321 Fairmount Ave.
lacalacafeliz.com
If you're in the mood for Mexican, La Calaca Feliz (literally "the happy skeleton") is sure to tickle your "foodie" bone. This contemporary Mexican cantina bursts with color in terms of both ambiance and food. They're offering a $25 dinner special for restaurant week that includes options like kale salad (kale, avocado, berries, crispy cotija and chile de arbol dressing — yum!), duck confit tlayuda (duck confit barbacoa, sweet potato puree, charred scallion sofrito, currants), carnitas tacos (pulled pork, salsa roja, onions, cilantro, avocado) and enchilada con cangrejo (lump crab, grilled zucchini, spring pea, chipotle cream).

Fare Restaurant

2028 Fairmount Ave.
farerestaurant.com
Looking for an assortment of eats? Fare Restaurant on Fairmount is serving up both a $25 three-course brunch (Friday-Sunday) and a $35 three-course dinner menu for restaurant week. Brunch offerings include mushroom flatbread (Gruyere, spinach, black truffle vinaigrette, parmesan), strawberries-and-cream French toast (strawberries, strawberry sauce, mascarpone, fresh basil) and fish tacos. For dinner, enjoy flank steak (served with roasted potatoes, spinach and topped with chimichurri sauce) salmon (served with brown rice, green beans and red wine bordelaise) and more. Both meals include the option of either baklava or carrot cake for dessert.

South

600 N. Broad St.
southrestaurant.net
Not only does this jazz hot spot dish out top notch live music nightly, it also has an exceptional kitchen and their restaurant week menu hits all the right notes. The $35 three-course menu includes duck confit gumbo (smoked sausage, Carolina rice, file spice, fried onions) rock shrimp toast (ravigote, peppadew relish, toasted brioche) and grilled pork chop (creamed collards, spoon bread, boudin croquette, sorghum mustard). Whatever you do, save room for dessert! They have bourbon pecan pie and a salted caramel mousse.

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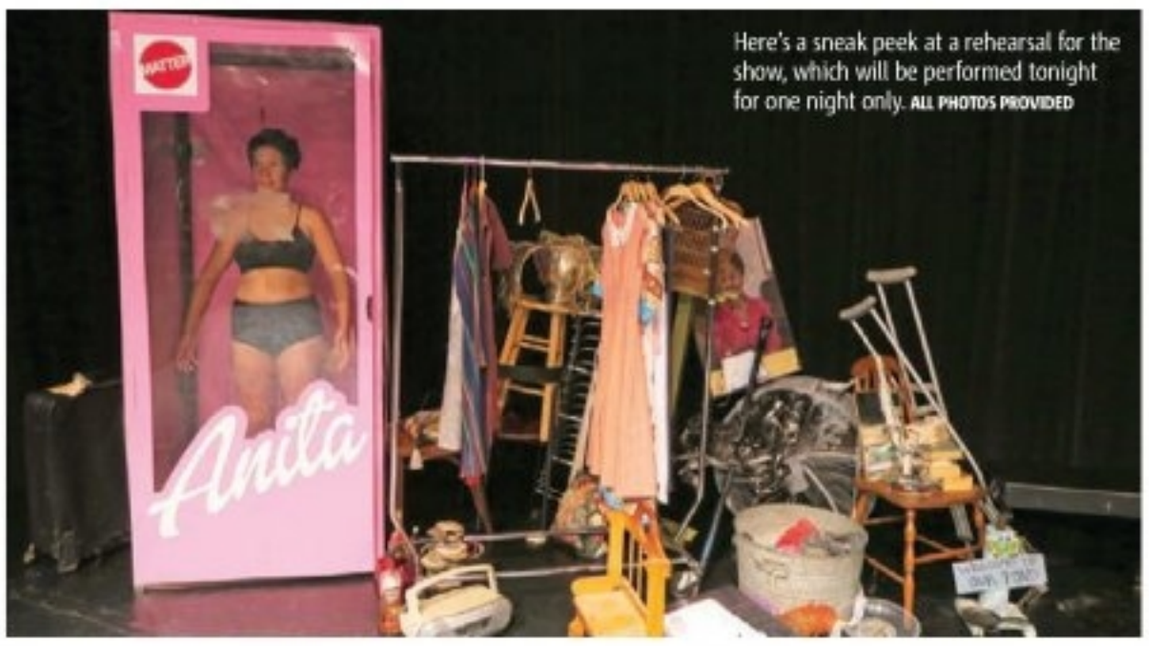

Here's a sneak peek at a rehearsal for the show, which will be performed tonight for one night only. ALL PHOTOS PROVIDED

'The Sisters Are Alright' is a much-needed reflection piece

It's broke, and black women are fixing it at Painted Bride.

KYLE HILLER
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Painted Bride is presenting important, critical theater with its upcoming "Souls of Black Folk III: The Sisters Are Alright," an adaptation of Tamara Winfrey Harris' book "The Sisters Are Alright: Changing the Broken Narrative of Black Women in America." The 60-minute interactive theatrical journey stars Anita Holland of InterAct Theater and Applied Mechanics notoriety. She leads a group of artists focusing on race in a new way. Painted Bride's latest installment of the annual "Souls of Black Folk" is part of this year's Bridal Salon series.

"The Bridal Salon has always attracted mostly women artists of color," says LaNeshe Miller-White, Painted Bride's marketing manager and a participant in the series. "This year, we were intentional about picking a book that would speak to the experience of black women." "The Sisters Are Alright" exposes anti-black-woman propaganda and shows how real black women are pushing back against distorted cartoon versions of themselves.

In an article Harris wrote for Bitch magazine in 2012, she asserts that "the image of black female dignity is routinely attacked by a 24/7 media-industrial complex that serves up a steady stream of caricature. Scripts featuring fully formed black female roles may be difficult to find, but the exploding popularity of unscripted television has placed an increasing number of stereotypical black female characters in the public eye — characters presumed to represent 'real' black womanhood." She backed up the statement by referencing Halle Berry's controversial role in "Monster Ball" and the more recent criticism Erykah Badu faced for having three children by three different fathers vs. the praise Beyonce received for starting a family in a more "traditional" way. These examples only scratch the surface of a deeply embedded and ineptly treated wound.

Anita Holland stars in "The Sisters Are Alright."

Harris' book and the performance adapted by Painted Bride is a resource and a reflection of progression for black women in spite their oppression. "Black women have been on the front lines of many a revolution," Harris continues in her article. "A battle that opens the door for all people — domestic workers and duchesses, the chaste and the promiscuous, the conventional and the daring — to be seen as valuable, to be seen as respectable, is a fight well worth having."

The one-night-only performance kicks off at Painted Bride Art Center tonight at 8 p.m. Tickets are on sale now for $10. Visit paintedbride.org for more details.

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Front Street Dive
10 S. Front St.
$15, cluseandbooze.com

FOOD & DRINK

Bartram's Garden Beer & Boats

Bartram's Garden hosts this Philly Beer Week event, in which beer is served at the garden's community boathouse — featuring Cartesian Brewing, Highway Manor Brewing and Quaker City Malting — and kayaks and rowboats are taken for a leisurely ride on the Schuylkill River. Kids boat free with parents or guardians.
June 8, 4-8 p.m.
Bartram's Garden, 5400 Lindbergh Blvd.
$15, bartramsgarden.org

PROVIDED

THEATER

PROVIDED

Spiderman Burlesque Tribute

Bare & the Bold Burlesque presents this rollicking and totally tongue-in-cheek dance take on your favorite Spiderman heroes and villains – a perfect fit for one of downtown's most unusual bars. Flirt Vonnegut hosts, with performances by Otis Pena, Bum Bum Kapau and more.
June 11, 8 p.m.
Franky Bradley's,
1320 Chancellor St.
$12, frankybradleys.com

Art Museum Restaurant Week Kickoff

Sunday launches the Art Museum area's first of two restaurant weeks — boasting prix-fixe menus rooted in the summer season. Just some of the participating restaurants: South, Sabrina's Cafe, Dim Sum & Noodle and London Grill.
June 11-16
Various locations
Prix fixe $15-$35
artmuseumareaphl.com

ART

Art in the Alley

An annual celebration, regional artists flock to Lancaster Avenue in Ardmore to showcase their latest works — with live demos and lots of food and drink options. Look out for the whimsical illustrations of Justine Babcock and the mixed media of J. Torrence, who weaves art forms and subject matters together to evoke a subtly psychedelic result.
June 10, 5-8 p.m.
Merion Art & Repro
17 W. Lancaster Ave., Ardmore
Free, destinationardmore.com

MUSIC

Peter Brotzmann and Heather Leigh

The glory of jazz improv is on full display with this enlivening partnership between saxophonist Peter Brotzmann and the jazz-genre-transcending Houstonite guitarist Heather Lee. Sit back with a drink and soak up the energy.
June 8, 8 p.m.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that Extra Space Storage will sell at public auction at the storage facility listed below, to satisfy the lien of the owner, personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at location indicated: Extra Space Storage **12005 Roosevelt Blvd, Philadelphia, PA 19154 215-514-2704, June 21, 2017** at **2:45pm.**

Sylvia E. Uwanawich A15 clothes - Ashraf Abuhanak B13 furniture
Nakeya D. Berry L14 household items - ElHadi Ibrahim O1 furniture, boxes
Sugiharto Fnu 805 clothing, cooking stuff - Maritess Oldenburg 1120 household items, appliances, furniture - Stephanie Major 1503 household items

Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will sell, to satisfy lien of the owner, at public sale by competitive bidding on **June 21, 2017** at **1:15PM** at the Extra Space Storage facility located at: **6204 Oxford Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19111, 215-744-1563.** The personal goods stored therein by the following may include, but are not limited to general household, furniture, boxes, clothes, and appliances.

A138C Shamia Higgs (Furniture), B135 Kia Camielle Cross (Furniture & Household Items), B159C Shariff Quentin Mintz (Love Seats & Bed Frame), B182C Joseph Volent (Furniture), C136 Michelle Witherspoon (Cabinets & Household), C184C Darryl K. Richardson (Stage Equipment), C194C Darryl K. Richardson (Church Equipment), C197C Darryl K. Richardson (Church Equipment), D148 Charles E. Hummel Jr. (Lawn Equipment & Snow Equipment), E117 Edna Esquilin (Tools & Machinery), E124 Holando Willi Falcon (Files & Furniture), E140 Elizabeth Dejesus (Household Goods), F141 Ricardo Medina (Tools & Boxes).

Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Extra Space Storage reserves the right to bid. Sale is subject to adjournment.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

MR. STORAGE will sell to satisfy the lien of the landlord at public sale by competitive bidding on **June 9, 2017,** the goods stored in the spaces of the following tenants:

At 10 am at 355 W. Main Street, Norristown., PA 19401
3306 Sean Jones, 2205 Megan Orndorff, 3202 Stacey Rogers, 2503 Carol Saul, 2913 Angirelle Strickland, 3406 Roberto Tiscareno, 4017 Christy Williams.

At 10 am at 2515 S. Front St., Phila., PA 19148
3071 Rhonda Arthur, 4076 Todd Brister, 5312 Juan Burgos, 1068 John Campbell, 2091 Shonda Childs, 2095 Daniel Decosta, 2058 Joseph Ellis, 5055 Salvatore M. Frittioi, 5109 Weston Kessler, 5756 Joseph Middleton, 1071 Thomas Quigley, 5060 Shakira Simmons, 1063 Jules Vuotto.

At 10 am at 7049 Frankford Ave., Phila., PA 19135
#612 Pamela Ewing, 1603 Cedena Gibson, 1614 Marshelle Graham, 1809 Christine Myers, 1006 Alexis Williams.

At 10 am at 5440 North 6th Street, Phila., PA 19120
1210 Parris L. Calloway, 2111 Cyrina Cupit, 905 Megan Dixon, 3614 Nuchelle Gaither, 2501 Omar Goodwin, 26 Vaughn Gregg, 335 Jill Hickson, 225 Ivoree Mathis, 2907 Naseam Morris, 2109 Angela Newsome, 2302 Juanita Pembleton-Thompson, 1104 Frank Polk, 3402 Delorica Salmon, 1209 Tonya Scott, 1506 Stanley Wiggins, 2903 Tameka Williams.

At 10 am at 5026 Ridge Ave., Phila., PA 19128
#677 Margaret Akano, 142 Cristal Franklin, 145 Donna Fulton, 119 Daniel Kursman, 469 Jewel A. Lassiter, 1607 Ledon Lenzly, 701 Matt Monfredi, 225 Antoinette Moore, 527 Iesiah O. Patterson, 681 Angela Pollock, 686 Corletta Robinson, 26A Justin Rose, 259 Jesus Gonzalo Saucedo Villarreal, 2416 Lynn Schleichter, 327 Ryan Smith, 262 Michael Stankiewicz, 392 Mary West.

At 10 am at 6758 Ridge Ave., Phila., PA 19128
50 William Baker, 124 Frederick Carpenter, 119 Frank Procopio, 58 James Sciarra, 8 Maurice Talley.

Purch. must be made with cash along w/a refundable dep. and paid in full at time of purch. All goods are sold as is, and must be removed at the time of purch. Sale is subject to adjournment. Seller reserves the right to set minimum bid.

1601 Walnut St., Suite 822, Phila., PA 19102
215-557-7979
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212 W Rte 38, Suite 500, Moorestown, NJ 08057
856-206-9559

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FringeArts,
140 N. Columbus Blvd.
$18, fringearts.com

Dawes

The Los Angeles-based folk-rock band leans a little heavier into the rock side of their sound on their new album, "We're All Gonna Die," which the group is touring now. Catch the full set at the Fillmore and embrace their (slightly more chill) take on dad rock.
June 10, 7 p.m.
The Fillmore Philadelphia
29 E. Allen St.
$33.50, dawestheband.com

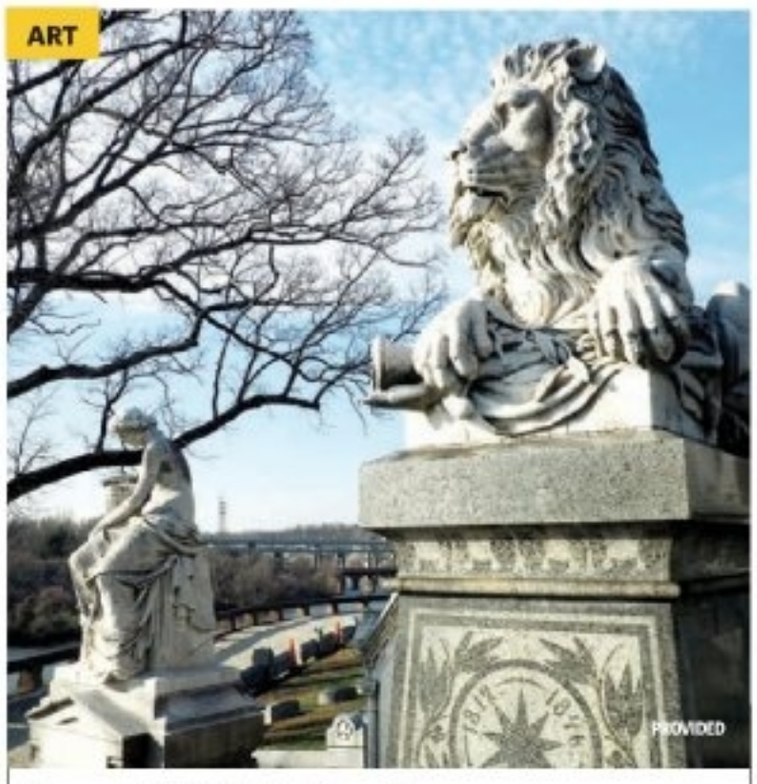
!!!

Pronounced "Chk-Chk-Chk," the indie-dance-punk group of five is a match for Underground Arts, bringing songs from its new album to the Wolf Building. Self-described as influenced by Nina Kraviz musically and Romanthony lyrically, you likely know if this is the show for you.
June 9, 9 p.m.
Underground Arts at the Wolf Building
1200 Callowhill St.
$15, undergroundarts.org

Bryan Adams

Grammy-winning recording artist, perhaps best known for his swoonlike crazy hit "(Everything I Do) I Do It For You," charms the Mann Center on Saturday. Ready those arms for lighters-to-the-sky swaying.
June 10, 8 p.m.
The Mann Center
5201 Parkside Ave.
$39.50, manncenter.org

ART


PROVIDED

Laurel Hill Walking Tour

Out to demonstrate that cemeteries are more than just fields of limestone and marble, the Barnes' director of education and outreach Ross Mitchell takes visitors on a three-hour walk-through of the design behind the markers, monuments and crypts. Stick around after for light refreshments.
June 8, 6-9 p.m.
Laurel Hill Cemetery
3822 Ridge Ave.
$20, barnesfoundation.org

DANCE

Street Dance Composition Class

If you're looking to explore the world of hip-hop culture and performing arts, this is an ideal starting point. Teena Marie Custer will teach students to craft their own movement — and then encourage you to immediately rework it based on your style. Show up early for a warm-up.
June 10, 10-11:30 a.m.
The Kimmel Center
300 S. Broad St.
Free, kimmelcenter.org

LGBT

Dyke March

Traditionally a "protest, not a parade" — counter to the common Pride experience — is the annual Philly Dyke March, held free of charge at Kahn Park but with a smattering of supplementary paid events, including an after-party at Tabu Sports Bar & Lounge from 6:30-10:30 p.m. for $7.
June 10, 3-6 p.m.
Kahn Park
328 S. 11th St.
Free, facebook.com/philadelphiadykemarch

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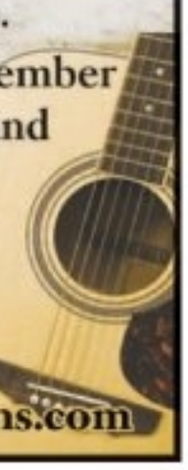
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NOTICE OF SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY
Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will sell, to satisfy lien of the owner, at public sale by competitive bidding on **June 21, 2017** at **2:00PM**, at the Extra Space Storage facility located at: **1553 Grant Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19115, (215) 464-3913**. The personal goods stored therin by the following may include, but are not limited to general household, furniture, boxes, clothes and appliances.
334 - Samuel Balogun - (Household goods, furniture, appliances), 345 - Irina Malinsiapa - (clothes)
65 - Belen Clark - (household), 275 - Lorraine Geraghty - (House Goods, Furniture), 412 - Michael Schaeffer - (Tires, seasonal, toys)
128 - Thomas Aquinas McCormick - (Tools, Boxes, Bins), 125 - Joanne Cocivera - (Household Items)
Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Extra Space Storage reserves the right to refuse any bid. Sale is subject to adjournment.

Notice
456 N. Christopher Columbus Blvd. Philadelphia, PA 19123
215-922-3715
NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: The following self-storage Cube contents containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by CubeSmart 456 N. Christopher Columbus Blvd. Philadelphia, Pa 19123 to satisfy a lien on June 22, 2017 at approx. 11:00am at www.storagetreasures.com
Marion Sharp B168, Michele Iovino C389, Dawn Rivera F531, Charles Vidra G663
CubeSmart

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841 S Columbus Blvd, Philadelphia, PA 19147,
will be conducting a **Public Sale** of the contents of the storage spaces listed below, with the contents being sold to the highest bidder. Owner reserves the right to bid, reject any or all bids, and cancel or adjourn the sale. The sale is being held to satisfy a landlord's lien and will take place via an on-line auction at www.storagetreasures.com on **JUNE 1, 2017** beginning at approximately **10am** and concluding on **JUNE 13, 2017** at approximately **10am.** Certain terms and conditions apply.
#290 Francesco Cifelli, #388 Heather Cox
#507 Alexandra K Ibingira, #625 Ivana Tyler

Locker Room Self Storage, Inc.
PUBLIC AUCTION
Notice of public sale of personal property. Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will sell, to satisfy the lien of the landlord, at public sale by competitive bidding on JUNE 22, 2017 @ 11am. Locker room self storage, inc. Located at 2001 W. Erie Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19140. The personal goods stored in space no:
UNIT# 1038 CUNNINGHAM, ROBERT
UNIT# 3038 EUBANKS JR., KENNETH
UNIT# 2235 EVANS, ANTHONY
UNIT# 2018 FRAZIER, SHANNA
UNIT# 1243 GASKINS, LARRY
UNIT# 1045 GRANT-PERKINS, CHARLES
UNIT# 1078 JACKSON, HERBERT
UNIT# 2002 JOHNSON, KENNETH
UNIT# 3063 MARSETT, LA'NYA
UNIT# 2050 ROYSTER JR., NICHOLAS
UNIT# 1180 TYNER, JOE
UNIT# 1074 WILLINGHAM, RALPH
PURCHASE MUST BE MADE IN CASH ONLY AND PAID FOR AT THE TIMES OF SALE, ALONG WITH A REFUNDABLE CASH DEPOSIT. ALL GOODS ARE SOLD AS IS AND MUST BE REMOVED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. SALE IS SUBJECT TO ADJOURNMENT AND WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO DETERMINE AN OPENING BID
LOCKER ROOM SELF-STORAGE, INC. 215-225-8585

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Get roped into Houston

The City With No Limits is an offbeat gem with tons to offer foodies and culture seekers. KATIE HAUGLAND BOWEN, FLICKR

Discover this Texas city's hip hot spots, weird art and where to swim around the whole state.

LINDA LABAN
@MetroBOS
letters@metro.us

Austin is not the only happening city in the Lone Star state. After taking a turn in the spotlight as the host of Super Bowl LI, Houston is continuing to wow visitors with offbeat art and food. Despite being America's fourth largest city, many of its attractions are clustered in special districts, making it easy to take in lots of sites.

What's new on the new food scene

Forget barbecue and Tex-Mex; Houston's hottest restaurateurs right now are chef Hugo Ortega and Tracy Vaught.

This winter, the couple opened their fifth restaurant, Xochi, in a sleek modern space where Ortega and his pastry chef brother Ruben develop intricate, earthy dishes based on traditional flavors of Oaxaca, Mexico. Moles — from classic mole *negro* to mole *de chicatana* (ant mole) — and Oaxacan street dishes are a specialty. Most ingredients are hand-made in-house, including the chocolate, which is ground from Mexican cacao beans. Or relax at the bar with some baked oysters and the finest tequila and mezcal cocktails.

That's an epic lazy river on the pool deck of the Marriott Marquis Houston. VISIT HOUSTON

Have a drink on the downlow at the speakeasy Tongue-Cut Sparrow. JULIE SOEFER

The "secret" bar trend hasn't passed this city by. Located above local favorite bar The Pastry War is the speakeasy bar-within-a-bar Tongue-Cut Sparrow — the name is inspired by a Japanese tale of greed, jealousy and friendship.

True, it feels like you're heading somewhere illicit as you enter via stairs at the back of the downstairs bar, but the tiny space (just 25 seats) steeped in Old World Americana is a formal cocktail bar. There is no food, but complimentary bar snacks are served with the perfectly executed bespoke and classic cocktails.

See a totally distinct genre of art

The museum district concentrates Houston's 19 major institutes of art and culture in a walkable area, with special events taking place all summer long like Sci-Fi Super Powers WonderWeek at the Children's Museum of Houston, origami at the Jung Center and the latest modern art at Diverseworks.

To experience something many city dwellers without a car know nothing about, take a detour to the Rice Military neighborhood where, apart from the famous Beer Can House, you'll find the Art Car Museum.

Baked oysters at Xochi
PROVIDED

Just past Glenwood Cemetery, where Houston notables like oil biz scion, aviator and Hollywood producer Howard Hughes are buried, this unique museum celebrates what is an all-American art: transforming driving machines into rolling masterpieces, like this year's new standout, the bejeweled Purple Rain car topped with a statue of Prince straddling his motorbike.

Through painstaking craft and the wildest imagination, the basic tenet of Art Cars is to return what is a mass-produced item to an individual form of expression. The museum is free and open daily.

A hotel you'll remember

The hottest new item on the essential Houston attraction list is a swim (or inner-tube float) around Texas via the Texas-shaped lazy river on the sixth floor Parkview Terrace at the Marriott Marquis Houston, which opened in the winter.

One problem: Only hotel guests have access to the Parkview Terrace, which overlooks pretty Discovery Green park. But you can get in by booking a treatment at the hotel's gorgeous Pure Spa, which allows you entry to the 60,000-square-foot pool deck that also includes an infinity pool and a 13-person hot tub, along with the HighDive bar, cabanas and fire pits. Parkview Terrace is rightfully jammed on weekends, so just keep that tip under your recently purchased cowboy hat.

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Fodor's Travel

What would you do with a vacant schoolhouse in Puglia or a secluded tower in Spoleto? Across Italy sit numerous unoccupied ancient buildings, from 11th- and 13th-century castles to farmhouses — and they could be yours for free.

The country's State Property Agency and Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport are leasing 103 of these historic buildings to savvy entrepreneurs who can present a detailed plan of how they'd convert them into tourist facilities. Once your application is accepted, leases can vary from nine to 50 years, with the option of renewing after the first nine years.

Located on bike paths as well as historic and religious walking routes, properties like a summer home along the Via Francigena and the 11th-century Castello di Blera in Lazio (near Rome) are not exactly located in tourist destinations, which is precisely the idea. The Italian government wants to encourage tourism in more remote places rather than in overcrowded cities like Venice.

It's not the first time the country has had a bid like this: In 2016, it was announced that tourism to Cinque Terre (a UNESCO world heritage site) would be controlled by having visitors buy cinque Terre cards, which allow access to the site, though the number of available cards per day would be limited (it's not necessary to purchase a ticket to enter, but it is encouraged).

And in 2015, stone houses in rural parts of the country were similarly auctioned off (that time for a steep €1) to stimulate growth in severely underpopulated regions. The full list of properties is available at agenziademanio.it.

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Phillies' Herrera proving himself, his value this week

After a slow start that garnered much criticism, Odubel Herrera looks to be turning the corner.

KYLE PHILLIPPI
@Kyle_Phillippi
sports@metro.us

Much has been learned about Odubel Herrera over the past few days.

The underachieving center fielder found himself out of the lineup only to return with a vengeance before getting caught in an ugly situation brought on by a Phillies legend.

Yet, Herrera never seemed to be fazed.

The story begins with Herrera's dreadful performance in May that saw him bat .183 and go 2-for-25 to finish the month.

He left manager Pete Mackanin with no choice but to bench him. The flamboyant outfielder rode the pine three times over a four game span.

There were even those suggesting Herrera be sent down to Lehigh Valley as a wake-up call.

Fortunately it never came to that, and Herrera clearly rewarded the patience of the Phillies.

On Friday, general manager Matt Klentak told reporters he wouldn't send him down, believing that a turnaround was coming.

He was right.

The 2016 All Star has completely turned it around in June. He has racked up nine doubles during the team's four-game winning streak. He's also drove in nine runs and has a pair of home runs.

His 19 doubles leads all big leaguers.

"He looked like the guy we know he can be," Mackanin told the assembled media in Atlanta after Herrera became the first Phillie with two doubles in three straight games. "It's great to see."

For more on Mike Schmidt's comments, visit metro.us

Everything was finally going his way … until Hall of Fame third baseman Mike Schmidt went onto 94.1 WIP and said Herrera cannot be a leader or centerpiece of the Phillies' rebuild.

Why?

"First of all, it's a language barrier. Because of that, I think he can't be a guy that would sort of sit in a circle with four, five American players and talk about the game. Or try and learn about the game or discuss the inner workings of the game. Or come over to a guy and say, 'Man, you gotta run that ball out.' Just can't be — because of the language barrier — that kind of a player."

Schmidt would later clarify and issue an apology to Herrera regarding his insensitive remarks.

Herrera accepted the apology, adding that he doesn't agree with the comment but that he still respects him as a player.

"It's disappointing because you never want to hear negative comments, but he called me, he apologized and explained what happened," Herrera said. "Everything is good."

The 25-year-old has dealt with some serious stuff lately — from being benched, seeing his name called for a demotion and the racial comments — but he proved himself in more than one ways.

Herrera is capable of being a very good big leaguer, and he just may have that short-term memory and focus that resides in a true professional sports leader.

Odubel Herrera's recent play on the field suggests he may be returning to his former top-form. GETTY IMAGES

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3 Eagles who won at OTAs

In the early going, these three Eagles are showing they have a lot of fight in them at OTAs.

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Midway through the third and final week of OTAs, the Eagles have two practices left before they break until minicamp. There have been a variety of players missing from practice due to either injury or the voluntary nature of OTAs. That's created opportunity for some of the younger players looking to make their name with the Eagles, and some of those players have spent these weeks grasping the chances that came their way.

Here's the rundown on three such players:

1 Nelson Agholor, WR

Fans will be wary to hear the former first-round pick is the star of practice so far. Agholor's first two seasons in the league have definitely been ones to forget, plagued by drops and a lack of production, but with those disappointing years in the rearview and the addition of Jeffery and Torrey Smith has come lower expectations and less pressure for a player where the trouble always appeared to be on some level mental.

While that could help, the arrival of rookies Mack Collins and Shelton Gibson means Agholor and fellow former high draft pick Dorial Green-Beckham will have to fight for their spots on the roster. So far, Agholor is winning that fight. With Jordan Matthews sidelined by injury, he's been taking over the slot role and he's been catching touchdowns from Carson Wentz and Nick Foles. He's reportedly keeping meticulous track of drops that have, so far, largely disappeared.

Nelson Agholor has been a star on the practice field — but can he keep it up? GETTY IMAGES

2 Rasul Douglas, CB

Patrick Robinson and Jalen Mills are the default starters at cornerback as camp begins. But when the team goes to a nickel set, Mills has been shifting inside and Douglas has been taking over the first-team spot at the outside position. For a team whose third linebacker played just 27 percent of snaps last season, the third corner is basically a starter.

For his part, Douglas has been showing the ball skills that led to an NCAA-leading eight interceptions last season. His size (6-foot-2) has given him the best chance on the Eagles roster to challenge Jeffery in jump balls, and both Jeffery and Smith have raved about his ability and his desire to get better.

3 Timmy Jernigan, DT

Jernigan provides a very different matchup next to Fletcher Cox than the departed Bennie Logan.

"He's not physically the biggest guy, but he's very strong and he's very active," said Eagles defensive coordinator Jim Schwartz.

In 24 starts over three seasons in Baltimore, Jernigan had 13 sacks, and that's a number that could go up in Philadelphia. Schwartz told the media the Eagles scheme is "a lot more attacking. I think it fits him. He can win individual pass rushes, meaning when the center is sliding away, he's a tough matchup for a guard." With Cox next door, the center could be sliding away to double quite often this season.

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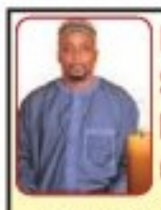

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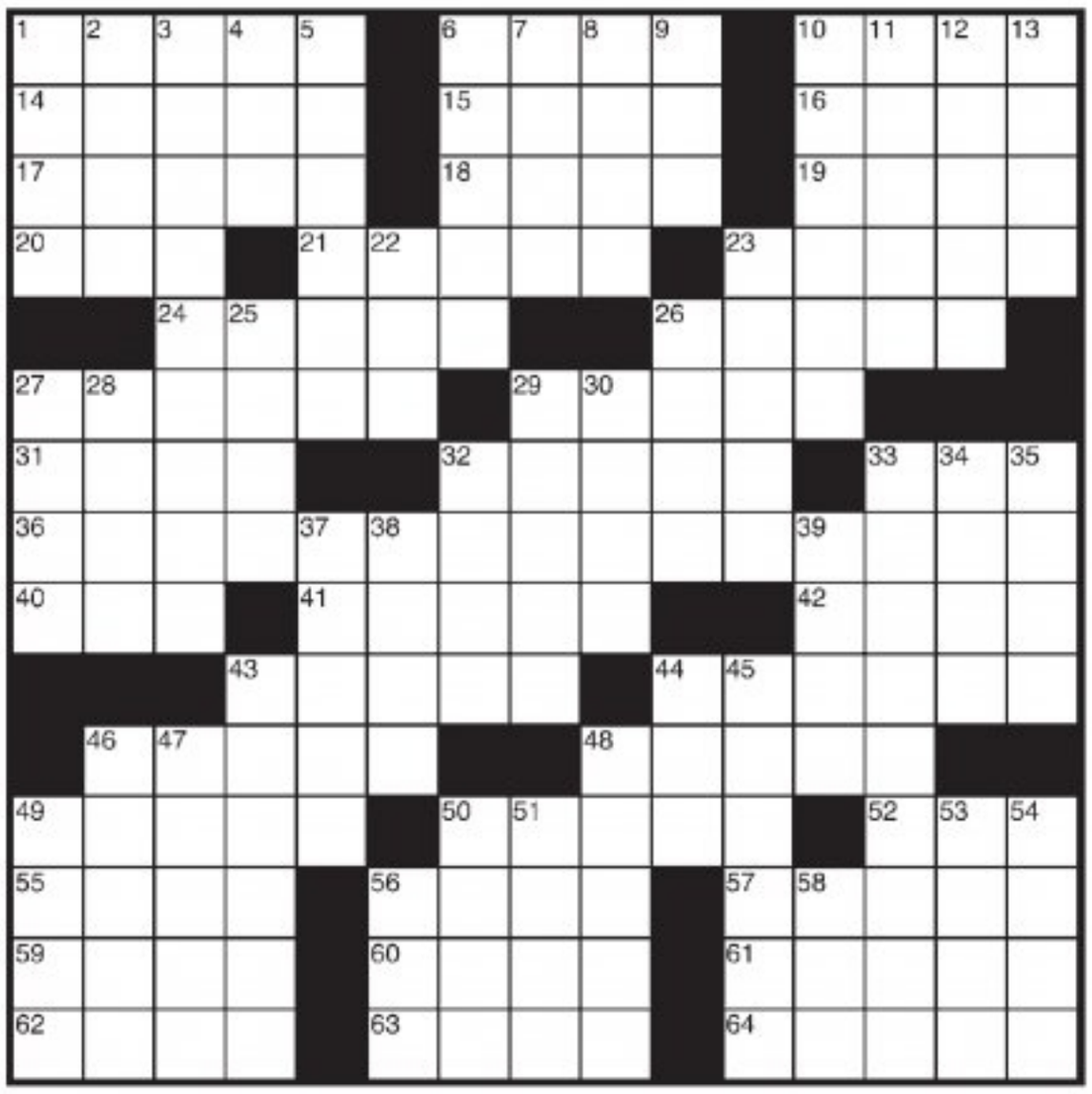

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Taurus Avoid an emotional dispute by facing troublesome situations before they escalate. Common sense and compromise will help tame any trouble that's brewing.

Gemini Business ventures are best handled without emotion. You must have a clear view of what's happening if you want to emerge with the highest return.

Cancer Don't bottle up your feelings. If you let a situation fester, you will end up overreacting or doing something uncalled for. Don't get angry if you want to succeed.

Leo Offer to do your part, but don't let anyone talk you into taking on their responsibilities. Getting trapped in someone's melodrama will lead to conflicts and deception.

Virgo Emotional problems will surface if you are disenchanted about a partnership or collaborative project. Be honest, diplomatic and ready to suggest impartial solutions.

Libra A short trip or a meeting that addresses questions you've been laboring over will help you make a tricky decision. Plan your action and make your move.

Scorpio Test your stamina. Take on a challenge, strengthen your physique and enhance your appearance. A healthy attitude will be noticed and complimented.

Sagittarius A friend or co-worker will disappoint you. Keep personal information a secret to avoid being manipulated. Problems will result from dishonest communication.

Capricorn Emotional issues regarding a contract or personal financial matter will surface. Walk away from a venture if it doesn't feel right. You will do better on your own.

Aquarius Showing your intelligence and clearly and emotionally expressing what you want to see happen will win you favors and support. Be yourself.

Pisces Emotional discussions will leave you feeling uncertain. Don't make a move until you are sure that the information you've been given is reliable. EUGENIA LAST

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If so, please contact HRI Trials today about research studies of investigational medications for bipolar depression.

Qualified participants must:

• Be at least 18 years of age • Currently experience symptoms of Bipolar disorder

Qualified participants receive:

• All study-related evaluations and study medication at no cost
• Compensation up to $600.00 for time and travel

HASSMAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE

For more information, call 866-350-6464

Do you or a loved one have schizophrenia?

If so, please contact HRI Trials today about inpatient and outpatient medical research studies

Qualified participants must:

• Be at least 18 years of age
• Currently experience symptoms of Schizophrenia

Qualified participants receive:

• All study related evaluations and study medication at no cost
• Total compensation ranging from $1,000 to $6,000 for time and travel

For more information, call 866-410-3838 • HRITrials.com

HASSMAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE

DEPRESSED?

Are you treating your depression with medication?
Are you still feeling depressed?

If so, please call Hassman Research Institute about participating in our research study of an investigational drug for adults with treatment-resistant depression.

Qualified participants must: • Be 18 or older • Be taking prescribed antidepressant medication • Be currently experiencing a depressive episode

Insurance is not required to participate in our study, and all study-related care and study medications are provided at no charge.

Transportation and compensation up to $7,500 for time and travel may be available.

HASSMAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE

For more information, call toll-free 866-264-4545 or visit HRITrials.com